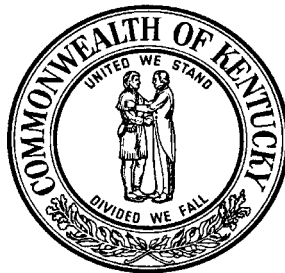


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
GRANT COUNTY
FORMER SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES**

May 31, 2006



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
GRANT COUNTY
FORMER SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES

May 31, 2006

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes for the former Grant County Sheriff as of May 31, 2006. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The former Sheriff collected taxes of \$9,026,089 for the districts for 2005 taxes, retaining commissions of \$294,057 to operate the Sheriff's office. The former Sheriff distributed taxes of \$8,731,172 to the districts for 2005 taxes. Taxes of \$182 are due to the districts from the former Sheriff, and refunds of \$1,185 are due to the former Sheriff from the taxing districts.

Report Comment:

The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The former Sheriff's deposits as of May 31, 2006 were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$11,899

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
John R. Farris, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Darrell L. Link, Grant County Judge/Executive
Honorable Randy Middleton, Former Grant County Sheriff
Honorable Charles Dills, II, Grant County Sheriff
Members of the Grant County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the former Grant County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of May 31, 2006. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the former Grant County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the former Grant County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of May 31, 2006, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 28, 2006 on our consideration of the former Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Ernie Fletcher, Governor
John R. Farris, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Honorable Darrell L. Link, Grant County Judge/Executive
Honorable Randy Middleton, Former Grant County Sheriff
Honorable Charles Dills, II, Grant County Sheriff
Members of the Grant County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a stylized, flowing script.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
September 28, 2006

GRANT COUNTY
RANDY MIDDLETON, FORMER SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES

May 31, 2006

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 1,216,437	\$ 953,424	\$ 4,395,380	\$ 1,076,712
Tangible Personal Property	70,143	65,790	267,861	176,108
Intangible Personal Property				45,812
Increases Through Exonerations	151	118	581	133
Franchise Taxes	180,246	150,463	641,691	
Fire Protection		1,436		
Bank Franchises	52,825			
Penalties	8,053	6,343	28,549	7,411
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>9</u>
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>1,527,856</u>	<u>1,177,589</u>	<u>5,334,108</u>	<u>1,306,185</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	4,339	3,487	15,849	5,319
Discounts	18,535	14,739	67,333	19,186
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	19,285	15,115	68,096	17,070
Tangible Personal Property	481	435	1,744	917
Intangible Personal Property				54
Franchise Taxes:				
Delinquent	484	427	2,375	
Uncollected	<u>8,274</u>	<u>7,480</u>	<u>28,625</u>	
Total Credits	<u>51,398</u>	<u>41,683</u>	<u>184,022</u>	<u>42,546</u>
Taxes Collected	1,476,458	1,135,906	5,150,086	1,263,639
Less: Commissions *	<u>63,037</u>	<u>48,276</u>	<u>128,752</u>	<u>53,992</u>
Taxes Due	1,413,421	1,087,630	5,021,334	1,209,647
Taxes Paid	1,413,250	1,087,745	5,020,978	1,209,199
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>297</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>294</u>
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	0	**	***	0
as of Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ (126)</u>	<u>\$ (385)</u>	<u>\$ (646)</u>	<u>\$ 154</u>

*, **, and *** See Next Page

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

GRANT COUNTY
 RANDY MIDDLETON, FORMER SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2005 TAXES
 May 31, 2006
 (Continued)

* Commissions:

10% on	\$	10,000
4.25% on	\$	3,866,003
2.5% on	\$	5,150,086

** Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	(118)
Health District		(246)
Extension District		(38)
Soil Conservation		15
Mental Health		(11)
Fire Acres		13
		<hr/>

Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u>(385)</u>
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*** School Districts:

Grant County Schools	\$	(45)
Williamstown Independent		<u>(601)</u>

Refunds Due Sheriff	\$	<u>(646)</u>
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GRANT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 31, 2006

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue that are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue that are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue that are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The former Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

GRANT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
May 31, 2006
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the former Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The former Sheriff did not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather followed the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). On May 31, 2006, \$11,899 of the former Sheriff's bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

- Uninsured and Unsecured \$11,899

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2005. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2006. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 16, 2005 through May 31, 2006.

Note 4. Interest Income

The former Grant County Sheriff earned \$1,856 as interest income on 2005 taxes. The former Sheriff distributed interest to the school districts as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of September 28, 2006, the former Sheriff owed \$32 in interest to the Grant County Schools, \$87 in interest to Williamstown Independent School, and \$70 in interest to his fee account.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The former Grant County Sheriff collected \$33,199 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. As of September 28, 2006, the former Sheriff owed \$3,367 in 10% add-on fees to his fee account.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The former Grant County Sheriff collected \$484 of advertising costs and \$121 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). As of September 28, 2006, the former Sheriff owed \$484 in advertising costs to the county and \$121 in advertising fees to his fee account.

Note 7. Unrefundable Duplicate Payments And Unexplained Receipts Should Be Escrowed

The former Sheriff should deposit any unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts in an interest-bearing account. According to KRS 393.110, the Sheriff should properly report annually to the Treasury Department any unclaimed moneys. After three years, if the funds have not been claimed, the funds should be remitted to the Kentucky State Treasurer. For the 2005 taxes, the former Sheriff had \$1,498 in unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts. Therefore, the former Sheriff should send a written report to the Treasury Department.

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

GRANT COUNTY
RANDY MIDDLETON, FORMER SHERIFF
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

May 31, 2006

INTERNAL CONTROL - REPORTABLE CONDITION AND MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

During our review of internal control, we found that the former Sheriff's office had a lack of adequate segregation of duties. Due to the entity's diversity of official operations, small size, and budget restrictions, the official had limited options of establishing an adequate segregation of duties. However, the lack of adequate segregation of duties is hereby noted as a reportable condition and a material weakness pursuant to professional auditing standards. The following compensating controls could have been implemented and documented to offset these internal control weaknesses.

- Cash receipts by mail should be received and recorded by someone separate from the duties of handling and/or posting cash receipts to the ledger. At a minimum, only one person should be designated to receive and open mail. The Sheriff should perform surprise cash counts.
- The Sheriff should periodically compare a daily deposit slip to the daily checkout sheet and then compare the daily checkout sheet to the receipts ledger. Any differences should be reconciled. He could document this by initialing the bank deposit slip, daily checkout sheet, and receipts ledger.
- Two people should sign all checks, one being the Sheriff.
- The Sheriff should periodically compare the bank reconciliation to the balance in the checkbook. Any differences should be reconciled. The Sheriff could document this by initialing the bank reconciliation and the balance in the checkbook.
- The Sheriff should personally mail disbursements.

Former Sheriff's Response: We are working on this.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

None.

PRIOR YEAR:

The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties - Unchanged

The Sheriff Should Require Depository Institutions To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral To Protect Deposits - Unchanged

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Darrell L. Link, Grant County Judge/Executive
Honorable Randy Middleton, Former Grant County Sheriff
Honorable Charles Dills, II, Grant County Sheriff
Members of the Grant County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the former Grant County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of May 31, 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2006. The Sheriff prepares his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the former Grant County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying comment and recommendation.

- The Former Sheriff's Office Lacked Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the reportable condition described above to be a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Grant County Sheriff's Settlement - 2005 Taxes as of May 31, 2006, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
September 28, 2006

